

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
August 13, 2003

ITEM: 13

SUBJECT: NPDES Permit: United States Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Wastewater Treatment Plant Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 13, Discharge to the Pacific Ocean via the Oceanside Ocean Outfall, San Diego County, Tentative Order No. R9-2003-0155, NPDES Permit No. CA0109347 (*Chiara Clemente*)

PURPOSE: To adopt new NPDES Waste Discharge Requirements for the discharge of secondary treated effluent from sewage treatment plant (STP) Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 13 to the Pacific Ocean, via the City of Oceanside's Ocean Outfall (OOO). The adoption of this Order would allow the Base to pursue an interim method of compliance with Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. 99-41 (copy enclosed).

PUBLIC NOTICE: A newspaper notice of hearing (copy enclosed) was published in the North County Times on July 11, 2003. Copies of this notice, as well as the Tentative Order, Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Fact Sheet were sent by certified mail to the discharger, and to all interested parties, on July 11, 2003, and were also made available at the Regional Board office. All supporting documents listed above have been posted on the Regional Board web-site. These actions serve as the 30-day official public notification for this item, as required by Title 40, Section 124.10 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

DISCUSSION: On March 14, 2003 the Base submitted a new application for NPDES Waste Discharge Requirements to discharge a maximum of 3.6 MGD of secondary treated effluent from STP Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 13, to the Pacific Ocean, via the OOO. After additional information was submitted on April 30, the application was considered to be complete.

The USMCB Camp Pendleton STP Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 13 all currently discharge to inland surface waters, at two separate locations along the Santa Margarita River (Ysidora Hydrologic Area 902.10). Since first regulated by the State in 1987, the Base has been in continuous non-compliance with Waste Discharge Requirements

for these discharges to the Santa Margarita River. As a result of this non-compliance, the Base was issued a series of Cease and Desist Orders, currently consolidated into existing CDO No. 99-41, which establish interim effluent limitations, and requirements to report quarterly on progress made to comply with all applicable NPDES effluent limitations.

In accordance with the Base's initial plans to comply with CDO No. 99-41 and all applicable effluent limitations, the Base sought, and ultimately obtained an initial 5-year agreement with the City of Oceanside to discharge treated wastewater to the OOO. By discharging all of its treated effluent to the OOO, the Base would terminate the discharges to the Santa Margarita River.

The Base is also in the process of developing and implementing a long-term compliance solution that would involve replacing the existing wastewater treatment facilities, to provide tertiary treatment with nutrient removal and a wastewater recycling program. This long-term compliance plan would provide for the use of recycled water and the resumption in discharge of adequately treated wastewater to the Santa Margarita River. It is also very likely that, as part of this plan, the Base would maintain its access to the OOO. Camp Pendleton estimates that full compliance with their long-term compliance proposal will be achieved in 2008.

As of July 31, the Regional Board received comment letters from the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health (DEH), the California Department of Health Services (DHS), and the City of Oceanside (copies enclosed).

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**Additional written comments were received from USMCB Camp Pendleton on August 7, 2003. Staff has reviewed all comments received and prepared responses to these comments along with an errata sheet to incorporate changes to the Fact Sheet, Tentative Order, and Monitoring and Reporting Program. Copies of these documents have been sent to the discharger and other interested parties by letter dated August 8, 2003. Copies of all written comments received and staff's responses with errata sheet have been provided to the Regional Board.**

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None.

SUPPORTING DOCS:

- 1) Site map
- 2) Notice of Public Hearing

- 3) Transmittal letter (for tentative Order)
- 4) Fact Sheet for tentative Order
- 5) Tentative Order No. R9-2002-00104, including Attachments 1-4 and Monitoring and Reporting Program
- 6) Cease and Desist Order No. 99-41
- 7) July 15, 2003 comment letter from DEH
- 8) July 30, 2003 comment letter from DHS
- 9) July 30, 2003 comment letter from City of Oceanside
- 10) August 7, 2003 comment letter from USMC Camp Pendleton**
- 11) Staff Response to Comments and Errata Sheet with transmittal letter dated August 8, 2003.**

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES: Not applicable, as this is a new permit.

COMPLIANCE RECORD: The discharges from STP Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 13 have been in chronic, and significant non-compliance with their existing NPDES effluent limitations, as established for discharge to the Santa Margarita River, for the following constituents: TSS, BOD, total nitrogen, total phosphorous, total dissolved solids (TDS), total chlorine residual, manganese, MBAS, iron, color, dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, and whole effluent toxicity.

Because of the nature of the proposed receiving waters, the Pacific Ocean, the California Ocean Plan does not establish objectives for total dissolved solids (TDS), total nitrogen, total phosphorous, manganese, MBAS, iron, and color. The tentative Order, therefore, does not contain effluent limitations for these constituents, which only have water quality significance for discharges to inland surface waters. Also, the relocation of the discharges from the Santa Margarita River to the Pacific Ocean would result in less stringent effluent limitations for a number of constituents. Changes in effluent limitations from those contained in the current permits would occur for metals, priority pollutants, total chlorine residual, dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, and whole effluent toxicity. Based on the information provided in the discharger's application, the Base has demonstrated that they can comply with all these Ocean Plan requirements. Additionally, in the past three years, the Base has taken effective measures to reduce the effluent concentrations for TSS and BOD to the point where the Base can now comply with the applicable limits at each STP. Since April 1, 2003, when the Base last had an exceedance of the TSS daily maximum effluent limitation (of 45 mg/L) at STP No. 3, the discharges from the STPs have maintained a level of quality that would comply with all effluent limitations derived from the Ocean Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: The adoption of tentative Order No. R9-2003-0155 **with Errata Sheet** is recommended.